

BOARD OF REVIEW DECISION

Title of Publication: Visitor Q

Other Known Titles: Visitor "Q"
Love Cinema Vol. 6

Format: Video Recording VHS/NTSC

Director: Takashi Miike

Producers: Susumu Nakajima, Reiko Arakawa

Country of Origin: Japan

Language: Japanese, with English subtitles

Applicant: Society for the Promotion of Community Standards

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| Classification: | Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is limited for the purpose of study in a tertiary media or film studies course, or is part of a Festival organized by an incorporated Film Society, or the New Zealand Film Festival Trust and in all cases to persons who have attained the age of 18 years. |
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Descriptive Note: Sex scenes, necrophilia, drug use, bullying, violence and incest.

Display Conditions: Not Applicable

Date of entry in Register: 18 October 2005

Date of direction to issue a label: 18 October 2005

OFLC No: 501696

Unexcised version of publication:

| | Component | Running time |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Feature: | Visitor Q | 83.52 |
| Other timed components: | CineRocket Notice | 0.09 |
| Total running time: | | 84.01 |

The Classification Office is required by s55(1)(e) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 to publish decisions of the Film and Literature Board of Review. This entry is a verbatim report of the Board's decision with respect to this publication. It cancels the original decision made by the Classification Office.

Excisions:

No Excisions Recommended

Reasons for excisions:

Not Applicable

**Summary of reasons
for classification:**

Section 3(1) of Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (the Act)

In paragraph 123 of its judgment on the classification of the film *Visitor Q* (30 June 2005), the Court of Appeal required the Board to give reasons in greater detail with respect to section 3(1) of the Act:

“Reasons do not have to be elaborate but must not be so economical as to fail to explain the Board’s decision on all the main issues raised by the particular publication. We do not consider the reasons given by the Board in this case reached that standard.”

In paragraphs 71 and 72 of the Board’s earlier classification decision on *Visitor Q* (1 November 2002), the Board referred to its reasons for its section 3(1) decision. The Board found in that decision that there is a prevalence of sex, including incest, crime including murder, rape, assault, drug use, necrophilia, cruelty including bullying and Visitor Q hitting people over the head with a rock, and violence including family violence and school bullying. The prevalence and manner in which sex, crime, cruelty and violence are dealt with in the publication means that there is a likelihood of injury to the public good if it is released unrestricted.

In its new reconsidered decision, the Board considers the restrictions placed on distribution of *Visitor Q* by its decision significantly reduce the likelihood of “injury to the public good”. The Board’s reasons for this finding include the special nature of Film Festivals and the material provided to potential viewers in Festival programmes. Most people attend Film Festivals because they expect the films to be challenging and to go beyond the standard range of films commercially distributed. Audiences are more proactive because of the large number of films shown in a short duration. The programmes can be explicit but give detailed descriptions of each film. In the case of *Visitor Q*, the explanatory icons alongside the description of the film in the programme indicate that it contains domestic violence, drugs, lactation, necrophilia, incest, bullying, gross graphic violence, nudity, comedy and aspects suitable to a date movie.

The Board finds the general environment of Film Festivals can foster discussion around films, which allows people to process the film more deeply than is typical when watching mainstream cinematography, so mitigating any potential injury. It is the Board’s opinion that the main Film Festivals have established a track record of responsible treatment of controversial films. There is sufficient detail available to potential viewers of *Visitor Q* to ensure “chance” viewing is avoidable and unlikely, hence the likelihood of “injury to the public good” is reduced significantly.

The Board finds that similar safeguards exist in the case of a film such as *Visitor Q* chosen for the purpose of study in a tertiary media or film studies course. It is expected that students will be forewarned about the content and will not be shocked by the subject matter. The film will be discussed and students will be able to place elements causing concern into context.

The Board has reconsidered its previous decision on *Visitor Q* and, with the omission of the reference to the Incredible Film Festival, which no longer exists, confirms that decision for the reasons set out in that decision. Those reasons are to be read with the additional reasons provided in this decision.

